

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 remain in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 15-18 under 36 U.S.C. ¶ 112 for containing subject matter not described in the specification. Claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶ 102 for being anticipated by Valizadeh. Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 13-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. ¶ 103 as being rendered obvious by Valizadeh in light of Yoshimoto, et al.

Regarding the Section 112 rejection, applicants wish to direct the examiner's attention to the cited disclosure at page 13, lines 6 through 20, the passage cited as support in the previous office action. Therein it states:

This feature requires that the operating system provide an inexpensive way for the buffer manager to test whether a page resides in physical memory, such as the TPROT instruction in IBM's OS/390 operating system.

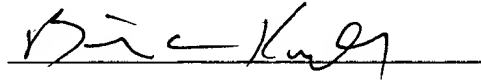
As recited in this passage, the TPROT instruction in IBM's OS/390 system is one embodiment of a "means for testing whether a buffer resides in physical memory" as recited in claims 15-18. The TPROT instruction and IBM's OS/390 system in general are well known in the art and the specific recital of those features would clearly display to one skilled in the art what is meant sufficient to make and use the invention.

Regarding the rejections under 35 U.S.C. ¶ 102 and 35 U.S.C. ¶ 103, in the response to the office action of February 2002, applicant made arguments distinguishing the present claims over the cited prior art. Applicant still believes those arguments to be persuasive. Nevertheless, in order to expedite the allowance of the claims, applicants have amended the independent claims, claims 1, 5, 8, and 12 to more clearly specify that the virtual and fixed buffers of the claims refer to buffers within a paged memory system. Applicants believe that the initial terms fixed and virtual memory already clearly convey this fact, but in accordance with the examiner's suggestion, and to expedite the prosecution of the case, specific amendments have been made to each of the independent claims to stipulate that the fixed storage and the virtual storage are configured for memory paging. Applicants believe this amendment sufficient to put the claims in condition for allowance.

That is, the cited prior art does not teach or suggest a buffer management system for dynamically varying the amount of virtual and fixed pageable memory. Consequently, claims 1, 5, 8, and 12 and claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9-11, and 13-15 which depend therefrom are believed to be novel and non-obvious and therefore ready for immediate allowance.

As a result of the amendments and arguments presented herein, applicants assert that claims 1-18 are in condition for prompt allowance. If any impediments to the prompt allowance of the claims remain that can be resolved by a telephone conversation, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian C. Kunzler", is written over a horizontal line.

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Marked-Up Version of the Amended Claims to Show Changes:

1. (Amended) A buffer management system comprising:
 - a buffer pool further comprised of an amount of fixed storage configured for memory paging and an amount of virtual storage configured for memory paging; and
 - a buffer manager for dynamically varying the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage based on a comparison of present usage of the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage to target values.

5. (Amended) A buffer management system for an operating environment which supports both fixed and virtual storage comprising:
 - a buffer pool comprising a plurality of buffers logically partitioned into three states, fixed, pageable and released, said buffer pool further comprising both fixed storage configured for memory paging and virtual storage configured for memory paging; and
 - a buffer manager further comprising system target usage values for said fixed and virtual storage and a comparator for comparing actual fixed and virtual usage values to target usage values, wherein said buffer manager varies the amount of fixed and virtual storage used by moving buffers in said buffer pool between said logical partitions.

8. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
 - a buffer pool further comprised of an amount of fixed storage configured for memory paging and an amount of virtual storage configured for memory paging; and
 - a buffer manager for dynamically varying the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage based on a comparison of present usage of the amount of fixed storage and the amount of virtual storage to target values.

12. (Amended) An article of manufacture for an operating environment which supports both fixed and virtual storage comprising:

a buffer pool comprising a plurality of buffers logically partitioned into three states, fixed, pageable and released, said buffer pool further comprising both fixed storage configured for memory paging and virtual storage configured for memory paging; and

a buffer manager further comprising system target usage values for said fixed and virtual storage and a comparator for comparing actual fixed and virtual usage values to target usage values, wherein said buffer manager varies the amount of fixed and virtual storage used by moving buffers in said buffer pool between said logical partitions.